



Rural Development Utilities Programs FOIA Webpage

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C.A § 552)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/04foia/foiastat.htm> generally provides that any person has a right, to obtain access to federal agency records except to the extent that such records(or portions of them) are protected from public disclosure by one or more of the nine FOIA exemptions.

Procedural Requirements (Brief Overview)

Requests for information must be submitted in writing via fax (202 401-1977) or mail addressed to:

Rural Development Utilities Programs
Attn: FOIA Specialist
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 1522
Washington, D.C. 20250-1522

The FOIA provides **20 workdays** for a request to be acknowledged by the receiving office.

Proper FOIA Request –must reasonably describe the records sought, that means a description of the record that enables an employee familiar with the subject area to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Agencies are not required to conduct wide-ranging, unreasonably burdensome searches for records.

Agencies are not required to answer questions posed as requests or to create a record in order to respond to a request. Only existing records are provided under FOIA. Questions relating to specifics about a program should be directed to the Program's webpage or by contacting the responsible program office(s).

FEES – Requesters are subject to fees for processing requests. The fees include costs for search-time, review time, and copies if complying with the request results in a cost of \$25.00 or more. The FOIA Specialist will notify the requester in advance should fees apply. (See www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/doc/2018f.doc (2018.255 (a-g)))

INFORMATION FREQUENTLY REQUESTED UNDER FOIA FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT UTILITIES PROGRAMS

“Approved” Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants (SF 424) (www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/pdf_files/05loantoolkit.pdf) (Once an application is approved, portions of the application materials may be released to the public upon receipt of a written request. However, prior to release, the agency notifies the applicant in writing of the request, providing them the opportunity to object the proposed release (See submitter notification requirements www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/pdf/2018f.pdf. (2018.258 (c) (4))

Broadband Telecommunication Loan and Grant Application materials (RUS Form 532 - www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband/guides-Sept-2005/form532-broadband-app.pdf) Portions of the application materials may be released to the public upon receipt of a written request. However, prior to release, the agency notifies the applicant in writing of the request, providing them the opportunity to object to the proposed release (see Submitter Notification requirements @ www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/pdf/2018f.pdf. (2018.258 (c) (4)) and Executive Order 12,600 www.cftc.gov/foia/foieo12600.htm

Operating Report Data of Rural Development Electric Program Borrowers for years ending **2000 – 2004** This information is available both in paper and electronic formats- the paper version is provided at a charge of .20 per page over \$25.00, electronic version includes all filers and is charged at a rate of \$35.25 per year and is provided in a “Zip” file via email.

Note: Year ending 2005 is not yet available for distribution to the public.